

Hunger and malnutrition

†2614. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statistical information provided by the international food policy research institute on hunger and malnutrition position in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government have extended its consent to these statistics;
- (c) if so, the action plan Government are preparing to resolve this grim problem; and
- (d) if not, the action taken by Government to refute this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per information received from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), one of their institutes namely National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP) has come across International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) data. However, they do not agree with their estimates.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Empowering consumer groups for quality tests

2615. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are empowering consumer groups to test products for their quality and inform others;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this direction;
- (c) whether Government are aware that active involvement of NGOs would enable consumers to acquire accurate information about products instead of depending entirely on the advertisement put out by the manufacturers of such products;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.